

Listing Of Claims

Claims 1-15 Cancelled

16. (Currently Amended) A beverage container comprising:

a receptacle having a central axis, a neck that defines an opening and a resilient lid having a closure plate which plate spans the opening of the neck,

a downwardly facing annular shoulder on the outer surface of the neck,

the lid having an annular web extending over the upper end of the neck,

an annular skirt extending downwardly from the outer end of said web,

an annular flange having a first end and a second end,

a resilient hinge connecting said first end of said flange to a lower end of said skirt,

said flange being rotatable about said hinge, ~~said flange positioned with a downwardly facing second end when said lid is not assembled on said receptacle~~ and is rotated to a position wherein said second end faces upwardly towards said web when the lid is ~~assembled on~~ snap fitted onto said receptacle,

the upper edge of the neck deforming the web,

the upwardly facing free end of the downwardly facing flange engaging the shoulder,

the skirt being in tension between said first end of said flange and said annular web of said lid thereby forcing the shoulder and the free end of the flange together,

the resilient hinge forcing the side surface of the flange against a side surface of the container,

a first gas seal provided by the web deforming engagement of the web and the upper end of the neck,

a second gas seal provided by the engagement of the free end of the flange and the shoulder under force created by tension in said skirt, and

a third gas seal provided by engagement between the side surface of the free end of the flange and the side surface of the receptacle under force provided by the resilience of said hinge.

17. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 16 in which the resilient hinge is readily tearable.

18. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 16 in which the lid is snap-fitted on the receptacle.

19. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 18 further comprising: a rupture tab connected to the annular web, rotation of the rupture tab causing the seal of the container to be broken and the snap-fit connection to be released.

20. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 16 in which the closure plate is downwardly concave and thus extends into the neck and includes a base portion, integral with which is an upwardly extending wall portion, which is connected to the annular web.

21. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 20 in which the inner surface of the neck and the outer surface of the wall portion of the closure plate are first and second surfaces in sealing engagement with each other.

22. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 21 in which the sealing engagement is along an annular surface that is inclined upwardly and outwardly with respect to the axis.

23. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 21 in which one of the first and second sealing surfaces carries an annular protuberance which is accommodated within an annular recess in the other of the first and second sealing surfaces.

24. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 16 in which the annular flange that is integral with the underside of the annular web is deflected laterally by contact with the side surface of the neck of the bottle, with which it forms the third gas seal.

25. (Currently Amended) The container of Claim ~~1~~ 16 in which the lid is snap-fitted on the receptacle, the closure plate is downwardly concave and thus extends into the neck and includes a base portion, integral with which is an upwardly extending wall portion which is connected to the annular web, and including a rupture tab connected to the annular web, rotation of which causes the seal of the container to be broken and the snap-fit connection to be released.

26. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 25 in which one of the first and second sealing surfaces carries an annular protuberance which is accommodated within an annular recess in the other of the first and second sealing surfaces, and in which an annular flange is integral with the underside of the annular web and is deflected laterally by contact with the side surface of the neck of the bottle, with which it forms a further seal.

27. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 16 in which a thickness of the flange increases with distance from the hinge.

28. (Previously Presented) The container of Claim 24 in which a thickness of the flange increases with distance from the hinge.